

The Daily Tar Heel

97th year of editorial freedom

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Too much to lose Libraries can't afford to wait anymore

It seems obvious enough: without up-to-date books and journals, a university has a difficult time fulfilling its mission. But UNC's libraries decline in strength each year, with no apparent end in sight, while the General Assembly and alumni and student groups remain idle. Almost everyone recognizes the importance of a large library within the University, but no one has taken the initiative to save the library from declining purchasing power.

While state funding for the library has not decreased in recent years, the money has not been enough to match inflated book prices and the decline of the dollar in foreign markets, where half of all books and one-fourth of all serials are purchased. Last year, the libraries bought only 44,000 volumes, compared to an average of 77,000. Book requests must be thoroughly evaluated according to need, with thousands each year being put on hold indefinitely.

In addition, each department was asked this summer to identify serial subscriptions which could be dropped, resulting in the cancellation of \$140,000 in subscriptions — and more cancellations may follow if budget constraints continue. The library has rejected outright many faculty requests for new books and serials, greatly affecting the Health Sciences and Law libraries, which depend heavily upon serials for cutting-edge information in those fields. UNC has had a hard enough time retaining professors; now, frustrated faculty who are unable to acquire materials needed for teaching and research will have another reason to leave.

In an answer to requests of library personnel, the University offered some financial help last year, but \$68,501 for the Academic Affairs Library and \$15,733 for Health Sciences is little in comparison to a \$3 million acquisitions budget. The University simply does not have the money to bail out the libraries. Only the N.C. General Assembly, with the encouragement of alumni and students, can save the plummeting national ranking of our library.

First, the students must show that they care. Most people are unaware that students, through the Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies, actually began the libraries for themselves, donating them to the school in 1886 to create the first official University library. UNC has amassed one of the greatest collections in the country, and students can be proud of this.

Student Congress and divisions of the executive branch of student government could study the problem, increase student awareness of the situation and inform state legislators of student need and concern.

Second, the alumni must lend their aid. While several universities actively solicit alumni support of a general library fund, the UNC libraries have received no relief in this way. Indeed, if alumni can contribute more than \$11 million to construct an alumni center, they can surely give for the sake of the library. If alumni love their alma mater, they will not let its pride be tarnished.

All friends of this university must appeal to the legislature for required funds, and the legislature must listen. As the situation stands, much more than books are at stake.

board opinion

Finally, football What really matters on Saturday

Every year, an editorial writer attempts a humorous depiction of Carolina football the day before the first game. I have accepted the responsibility this year, taking into account that in recent days, the subject of the football game and its participants has been much abused. I intend to address, with a stab at humor, certain matters pertaining to Carolina football that have not been previously mentioned.

First, you have to get your tickets. These are not all that hard to come by, for obvious reasons. A block with the dorm or Greek organization is an accepted way to obtain tickets. Unfortunately, these seats are generally only good for fresh air and sunshine. From section 13, row

bridge, the average student will have acquired 63 of these cups and unacquired 51 of them. Sooner or later, your mom will ask you to stop bringing them home because they melt in the dishwasher, and you will throw them away because they are sort of disposable when you don't have a dishwasher. Buying the cups also supplies many quarters for the laundry machine.

While you're at the concession stand, don't get the nachos. They are just too messy to carry down stairs and over other fans to the middle of the row. The Velveeta doesn't stay hot anyway. The popcorn, however, comes highly recommended — it's light and fun to throw. Besides,

how much can they mess up popcorn?

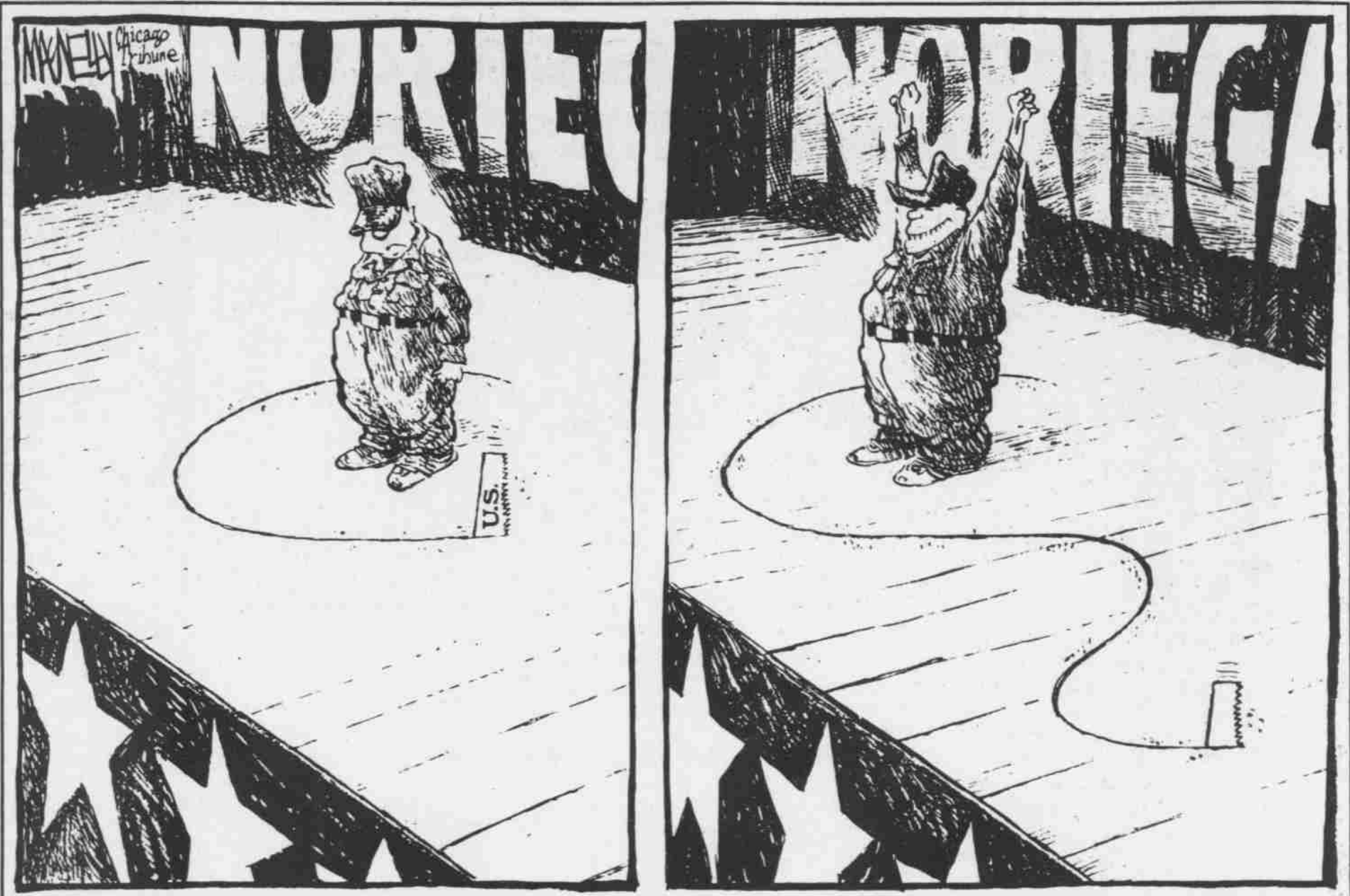
If you do make it to halftime, you will see the show presented by the marching band and the High Kicking Heels. These people work very hard on their routines, so do them the courtesy of not leaving your seats until the show is over. You can turn your backs and ignore them, even catch a quick nap. But don't leave your seats. They live for your applause and respect. Why else would they do it?

This hasn't been a hilarious exposition of Carolina football, but it has been accurate. And it hasn't really been about football. That isn't why students go to Kenan Stadium anyway. The other side of the stadium watches the football. For students, the game is a time-killer for the court parties. That's when the real fun begins. — William Taggart

This hasn't really been about football. That isn't why students go to Kenan Stadium anyway.

If tickets are not in hand by game time, you can always get general admission seats at the gate for the end zone. This location is fun, but make sure you get there early enough so you're not in the first four rows of the bleachers. From there, the endless parade of people in the mud in front of you eliminates all chances of following the game. Also, from the end zone angle, every run or pass looks the same distance. Don't count on any depth perception.

The depth perception will probably be gone by halftime anyway. Those people walking in front of the bleachers are heading for the concession stand. That is where a staple of Carolina football can be found — the souvenir cup. Before four years of college are under the



Readers' Forum

Good judgment not apparent in Frank

To the editor:
In your "Drawing the line: Sex story forces voters to think twice" editorial, you state that Rep. Barney Frank "only hurt himself" by having sex with a male prostitute. Mr. Frank, D-Mass., has stated repeatedly that he is a victim. What about Steven Gobie, the prostitute? Without people like Mr. Frank, Mr. Gobie would not have need of "straightening out his life," as a prostitute without "Johns" is like a restaurateur without patrons: looking for another line of work.

In regard to Frank's "good judgment," I fail to see how answering a personal ad in a newspaper under the description "hot bottom + hot endowed = good time" (Mr. Gobie's ad) constitutes good judgment. His setting the man up in his home as a paid staffer is almost laughable.

Mr. Frank has recently called for a full investigation by the ethics committee of an Illinois congressman for allegedly forcing his attentions on a Peace Corps worker in Africa. Perhaps if he had paid her it would have been left up to the voters to decide if he should be re-elected.

TODD MALLOY
Sophomore
Political Science

American morality demands abstention

To the editor:
We'd like to commend the perceptive and patriotic young law

student who, when interviewed by the Daily Tar Heel concerning the installation of condom machines on the UNC campus, bravely noted that this is yet another indication of the communist forces that threaten this great institution of ours. Now we do not wish to sound paranoid, but just look around you. It's everywhere!

Even as naive and impressionable freshmen, we noticed the incorporation of communal ideals in residence hall life. We found co-sexual living a threat to the American values on which we are proud to have been raised. Furthermore, we resented the Marxist billing policies of the University housing "service." These policies required us to pay the same rate as those who caroused till all hours with wanton disregard for the costs of lighting, only to awaken around midday to plug in their energy-wasting electric shavers, hair dryers and coffee pots.

Perhaps the most obvious example of communism at UNC is the Student Health "Service," which is actually socialized medicine in its most dangerous form. As we are both clean-livers, we have not needed the SHS during our careers at this great university, unlike those of questionable moral fiber who return time after time for treatment of their venereal diseases at our expense.

The communists on this campus would like you to believe that their condom machines will exempt you from moral responsibility. Keep in mind that no amount of prophylactic protection will change the fact that fornication is not only immoral, but un-American.

Be safe! Be American! Abstain!

GREGORY BLACKWELL
Senior
American Studies

MATHEW McCAFFERTY
Senior
American Studies

Headline emphasis didn't fit story

To the editor:
I was offended by the choice of emphasis in your recent headline, "Priest denies homosexual affair" (Sept. 6). Evidently to your headline writer the most disturbing part of the allegations against Rev. George Stallings Jr. is that they involve sex between two males.

The accusation that this priest as an adult had sex with a 16-year-old, who both by presumption of law and from the evidence of subsequent events did not give intelligent consent to this violation of his childhood, is evidently of lesser importance. The accusation that this priest abused his supervisory authority over an altar boy in his church and betrayed the trust placed in him as a result of his position also seems unremarkable.

Evidently, if this had been a 16-year-old altar girl with whom the priest had been accused of having oral sex in the church rectory, your headline writer would have been unable to come up with a tag of interest upon which to hang a headline.

Granted, the allegations involve homosexual acts. Their homosexuality is not, however, the is-

sue of concern here, contrary to the inference readers are invited to draw from your headline. The Daily Tar Heel must consider its responsibility for that inference and for any attitudes or actions resulting from it.

RON KNIGHT
Administrative Assistant
UNC AIDS Clinical
Studies Group

Letters policy

The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comments and criticisms. When writing letters to the editor, please follow these guidelines:

*All letters must be dated and signed by the author(s), with a limit of two signatures per letter.

*All letters must be typed and double-spaced, for ease of editing.

*Letters should include the author's year, major, phone number and hometown.

*The DTH will make every effort to contact writers to verify their letters, so be sure that both a daytime and evening phone number are listed.

*The DTH reserves the right to edit letters for space, clarity and vulgarity. Remember, brevity is the soul of wit.

*Place letters in the box marked "Letters to the Editor" outside the DTH office in the Student Union annex.

Helms proposal on arts too far off base

To the editor:
Sharon Sentelle's letter in support of the Helms Amendment ("Helms Amendment protects taxpayers," Sept. 1) only proves that Ms. Sentelle's opinion is as misguided and ill-informed as that of the senator she so fervently praises. In her words, the amendment to the Interior Appropriations Bill would prohibit the use of tax dollars to "support art that is pornographic, homo-erotic or exploits children, or denigrates the objects or beliefs of the adherents of a particular religion or non-religion."

Ms. Sentelle has chosen very safe words to describe the intent of the Helms Amendment. She plays on a distaste for pornography, child exploitation and religious intolerance as well as invoking the specter of homophobia. But however palatable to the mass public Ms. Sentelle makes it seem, the amendment is still an attempt at censorship and a very definite violation of individual rights.

Ms. Sentelle would have one believe that Andres Serrano and Robert Mapplethorpe are on the government payroll, "federally subsidized," to use her own words. She speaks time and again of these artists' works being "purchased" at the expense of the innocent taxpayer. The truth is, nothing has been purchased, it's not as if Congress is stockpiling back issues of Hustler in some warehouse, and money isn't being dispensed to artists to do with as they please. The National Endowment for the Arts cannot grant money directly to a living artist. Rather, the funds go to galleries, museums and other such organizations so they can afford to host an exhibit of an artist's work.

The government does more than pass laws and maintain defense. It has a responsibility to educate and enlighten its people, or at least to make available education and enlightenment and allow the people the freedom to choose whether or not they will make use of these opportunities. Cultural achievement speaks well of an entire nation, and for the United States to turn its back on its artists and its people's access to their art would be a serious injustice.

Ms. Sentelle's second inaccuracy concerns the NEA's response to the controversy, which she describes as a "frantic campaign to withhold from the public the facts and the photos which have made the Helms Amendment a

necessity." When criticism of the NEA grants first started, people from all over the arts community, many of whom had opposed the organization's defense. Letters appeared in newspapers and magazines, and people appeared on talk shows and news programs, all opposing congressional restrictions on funding for the arts. The facts came out. The photographs in question are also easily available, both in Mapplethorpe's and Serrano's books and from the galleries that hosted the exhibits. If Ms. Sentelle is looking to blame someone for her not seeing the photographs, she can look to the media, which balked at showing the more controversial pictures. A number of magazines have printed other Mapplethorpe pieces from the exhibit, and the latest issue of Esquire features a layout of his portraits. What Ms. Sentelle fails to indicate is that those pictures she so apologetically describes make up only a small percentage of the artist's total work.

Ms. Sentelle dismisses the argument that the Helms Amendment would have kept Michelangelo and Shakespeare from receiving government grants, adding smugly, "which, I believe, they operated without." She not only misses the point of the argument but is factually incorrect. The point is that if Michelangelo and Shakespeare were alive today, operating under the Helms Amendment, a gallery would be refused a grant to show their work. The majority of Shakespeare's sonnets are addressed to men; does that make them homo-erotic? Some critics charge his plays with incidents of racism and anti-semitism. According to Sen. Helms, such works would be off-limits to government funding. The amendment could deny people access to these great works, as most museums, galleries and reading series rely on grants to finance presentations. But Michelangelo and Shakespeare would most likely be safe. Ms. Sentelle herself calls them "great masters." She ignores the fact that conservative contemporaries of Michelangelo attacked the painter for filling the Sistine Chapel with nudes and for painting the faces of public officials on bodies trapped in hell.

As for the matter of government grants to these artists, the two never would have been able to pursue their work without support

from wealthy patrons. In an aristocratic society this came from the lords who made up the government, and for Michelangelo from the leading families of Italy, who acted as the de facto government of the cities. The Sistine Chapel, now considered Michelangelo's masterpiece, was no freelance project. He was commissioned to do the work by the pope, who was the government of Rome.

It is hard to decide how history will judge the late Mr. Mapplethorpe, but presently he is considered one of the leading visions in photography. His choice of subject matter has kept him out of the Ansel Adams mainstream, but does not diminish his ability.

Mapplethorpe's work is not for everyone. Some of his photographs, those which have touched off the controversy, are shocking. But are they pornographic? Mapplethorpe is as alike to the snapshots in Playboy as D.H. Lawrence is to the Penthouse Forum. Mapplethorpe, Serrano and Lawrence may disturb you, arouse you or make you look away, but they aim to make you think, to question what is accepted. Playboy and Penthouse aim to get blood and saliva flowing. Ultimately it is one's choice to see or not to see the photographs. But it is the government's responsibility to make such works available to everyone, to allow people the opportunity to expand their realm of experience and to question the established.

Finally, the Helms Amendment sets a dangerous precedent. It doesn't just set limits on the NEA, but on allocation of all tax money. With such broadly-defined terms in the amendment, it would be up to Congress to decide what is art and what is not. Photography is an easy medium to begin with, because it deals in real, more concrete images. But the amendment speaks of "art," not limiting itself to photography. Will Congress assume the burden of interpreting an artist's work, digging through symbolic representations for hints of erotic content?

So when you speak for the American Taxpayer, Ms. Sentelle, please realize that you do not speak for me and for many others who wish to maintain public access to the arts. We all pay taxes. We all have opinions. But the Helms Amendment is way out of line.

BRENDAN MATHEWS
Junior
English

The Daily Tar Heel

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